THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

The DAILY DISPATCH is delivered to subscribers at FIFTY CENTS per month, payable to the carrier weekly or monthly. Mailed at $6 per annum; $3 for six months; $1.50 for three months; 50 cents for one month. Price per copy, 3 cents.

The WEEKLY DISPATCH at $1 per annum.

The SUNDAY DISPATCH at $1.50 per annum, or 75 cents for six months.

Subscriptions in all cases payable in advance, and no paper continued after the expiration of the time paid for. Send post-office money order, check, or registered letter. Currency sent by mail will be at the risk of the sender. Subscribers wishing their post-office changed must give their old as well as their new post-office. Sample copies free.

ADVERTISING RATES.
HALF INCH OR LESS.

1 time	$ 50
2 times	1 00
3 times	1 50
6 times	2 70
12 times	5 20
1 month	10 00
3 months	25 00
Business wants	50
Wanted situation, payable in advance (25 words or less)	25

Above rates are for "every day" or advertisements running consecutively.

Reading notices in reading-matter type, five lines or less, $1; in nonpariel, leaded, five lines or less, 75 cents.

Card of rates for more space furnished on application.

All letters and telegrams must be addressed to THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

Rejected communications will not be returned.

All letters recommending candidates for office must be paid for to insure their publication. This is a long standing rule of ours.

Resolutions of respect to deceased members passed by societies, corporations, associations, or other organizations will be charged for as advertising matter.

UP-TOWN OFFICE, BROAD-STREET PHARMACY, 519 EAST BROAD STREET.

MANCHESTER OFFICE, 1203 HULL STREET.

SUNDAY.....FEBRUARY 27, 1898.

KEEP COOL.

The "inside information" to the contrary, notwithstanding, of certain enterprising Habana, Key West, and Washington correspondents, we know no more to-day of the cause of the destruction of the battleship Maine than we did the day after the disaster occurred. Hence, there is no more reason for a war scare to-day than there was the day after the calamity. Nor shall we be any wiser as to the agencies that brought about the explosion until the Board of Inquiry shall have made its report, if, indeed, we are any wiser then. It is within the range of possibility that the board will not have been able to clear up the matter. A failure to establish positive facts would leave us with nothing to go upon but numerous conflicting theories, each tending to weaken or render worthless the others.

During the last few days the correspondents have repeatedly assured us that the accident theory has been abandoned. But not a word of official or semi-official confirmation of this assurance has been forthcoming.

There is no evidence that any correspondent has succeeded in getting out of any member of the board, or any member of the narrow circle supposed to be in the confidence of the former, the slightest hint touching the views of the board or the character of the testimony given before it. The chief success of the enterprising special correspondents has been in the direction of inflaming the public mind in this country, playing into the hands of the stock speculators, and spreading one day rumors that the authorities at Washington denied the next. Indeed, so successful have they been in the second respect mentioned as to excite the suspicion of especially close touch with Wall Street. The manipulators worked for all it was worth the "discovery" of the correspondents that the "accident theory had been abandoned," there was a tremendous slump in stocks, sound as well as speculative securities were affected, and feverish and uncertain business conditions obtained more or less in every large city in the Union.

Admitting, however, that the accident theory has been abandoned, and that the Maine disaster resulted from an exterior agency, premeditatedly employed, it may still be a far cry to war. There has not so far developed one scintilla of evidence that would support a suspicion that the Spanish authorities, either at Madrid or in Cuba, were in anyway connected with or had any intimation of a plot to blow up the ship. On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that they were shocked, surprised, and horror-stricken by the calamity. If it shall be demonstrated that the explosion was due to an exterior agency, four leading propositions will present themselves: Was it the act of a Spanish fanatic or Spanish fanatics inspired solely by hatred of this country? Was it the act of a Weylerite seeking to throw discredit on the Blanco administration? Was it the act of a Cuban insurrectionist or Cuban insurrectionists, perpetrated for the purpose of precipitating hostilities between the United States and Spain? Or was a mine in the harbor accidentally exploded. Then, as we understand it, will arise the question of Spain's responsibility for indemnity for act exercising "due diligence" in protecting the Maine.

What constitutes due diligence could not be well determined in a hurry. In anticipation of the question of indemnity's coming up, leading authorities on international issues have been studying it, and there is a great diversity of opinion respecting the scope of "due diligence." It follows, therefore, that there would probably be a long road to travel before the point would be reached at which it could be decided whether we would be justified in demanding indemnity, and that in case the decision should be in the affirmative, war would depend on Spain's manner of meeting the demand. In the mean time, in view of the burden of our iniquitous pension-roll, the deficit in the Treasury, and the necessity of increasing taxation that war would involve, to say nothing of the fact that an unjustifiable war would be a crime, this country could do no better—could not better do its duty to itself and to Spain—than by taking counsel of the homely but sensible injunction, "keep cool and don't be a fool." A failure to do this, even should it not result in provoking war, would be likely to cause widespread and serious business unrest.

Those who have endeavored to produce diamonds artificially have discovered that it is necessary to employ very high pressure with the heated carbon in order to induce the latter to crystallize, and so an Italian, Quivine Majorana, it appears from the New York Tribune, has announced to the Roman Academy of Sciences a new method of conducting this compression. The carbon, having been heated in an electric arc, is suddenly subjected to a pressure from gases, generated by explosives, equivalent to 5,000 atmospheres. This seems to be about as much of a squeeze as it has always taken to procure diamonds made according to the ordinary alchemy of nature. Where, then, is the advantage of the artificial process?

THE CHAIR OF JOURNALISM.

The establishment by the University of Missouri of a "chair of journalism" is the subject of numerous and varying remarks from the witty paragraphers of the press. The trend of these observations is discouraging to the enterprise, and somewhat contemptuous of the high-sounding title—the toilers of the press, whether they be editors, reporters, or correspondents, usually calling themselves "newspaper-men," not "journalists." It is remembered, too, that time and again such chairs have been established, only to die for want of patronage.

With newspaper-men, elderly ones certainly, the belief is strong that the only thorough school for journalists is the newspaper office. It is a fact that nearly all of the members of our calling who have risen to eminence have been men who entered newspaper offices early and climbed, rung by rung, the slippery ladder of fortune. It is a fact, also, that before the West Point Military Academy was established, all of our army officers were men who were trained in the school of practical experience. The same was true, too, of our naval officers, before the Annapolis Academy was put into operation. And we doubt not that in the older time officers of our army and navy were very contemptuous of the youths who were graduated from the two academies—not believing that that sort of preparation was comparable in efficiency with that of actual apprenticeship in the art of war. But experience has shown the great value of these training schools. So, too, has the value of the schools for lawyers and physicians been proved. We dare say that the West Point or Annapolis cadet, when graduated, is more nearly ready for his professional duties than the young lawyer or doctor is; but in each and all of these cases the professional training that the young man has received puts him a long way ahead of his rival who has not had these advantages. "Green" the graduates may be in many particulars, but this "greenness" rapidly wears off.

Despite the traditions and prejudices of the majority of our brethren upon this subject, we believe a newspaper training-school might be established with great capacity for good. It should be a school of preparation merely. Its graduate would be as helpless without practical experience as is the young lawyer who steps from the class-room into the court-room; but after he had acquired practical experience—after he had shown that he possesses the newspaper instinct—he would possess great advantages over his rivals.

All men whose business it is to edit the "copy" sent into newspaper offices by correspondents, reporters, and others know what dreadful stuff often comes to them. Sometimes the writers are college-bred men; often they tell their stories well, but there is in their MSS. a tangle of ideas and a lack of finish that impose upon the careful and conscientious editor a degree of difficult work that taxes his patience and endurance in the highest degree. The most thoroughly well-edited daily newspaper in the world abounds in errors, and must ever continue to—such are the hurried conditions under which most of the matter is prepared, transmitted, edited, set in type, and read in proof—but it would be a startling revelation to the public if some day a daily newspaper were to print the articles furnished it just as they were "turned in" to the editors!

We do not know where a school of journalism could get its scholars, but supposing it the happy possessor of a class of twenty or thirty, it could not do better than to give instruction in the preparation of "copy." Yes, there is work for such a school to do, but where can it get its scholars? There's the rub! Where are the young men who are able and willing to undergo the training with the doubtful prospect of securing situations upon graduation? This, we think, presents a more serious difficulty than the finding of things to teach, or the adoption of methods of teaching them; yet, in the course of events, this may be changed, and, perhaps, sooner than we imagine.

Dr. Paul von Salvisberg, editor of Hochschul-Nachrichten and secretary of the Volks-Hochschul-Verein in Munich, has recently published a series of reports on university extension, from which it appears that the movement has met with marked success in the German cities and the Austrian capital. In Vienna, where the efforts of individuals and associations have been substantially aided by the government, more than 8,000 persons have, it is shown, registered for the various courses. In the German States, with the exception of Hamburg, no subvention has been asked for or granted. The Humboldt Academy, of Berlin, in 1896-'97 provided for 177 courses of lectures (Vortragscyklen), which were attended by more than 5,100 hearers; during the quarter beginning in October last, seventy-nine courses were given, and a branch association has begun its work in Potsdam. In Munich, according to Professor Dr. Lujo Brentano's 'Erster Jahresbericht des Volks-Hochschul-Vereins, although the association did not open its courses till February, 1837, 1,440 persons were registered as hearers during the first quarter, about one-third being laborers and mechanics and about one-fourth women. The readiness and unselfishness with which many of the leading instructors in the university and the Technische Hochschule took charge of the courses deserves, it is stated, recognition, the more so as the Bavarian Ministry refused the use of the lecture-rooms and laboratories of those institutions, leaving it for the city authorities to furnish the required assembly halls. Good beginnings have also been made at Konigsberg, Hamburg, Frankfort, Mannheim, Jena, and Nurnberg. In Frankfort, where the lectures are given under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, as well as in Munich and Mannheim, young business-men and employees of banking and commercial establishments furnish a large contingent of the audiences in courses of especial interest to themselves.

THE FRENCH IN AFRICA.

Although it is announced that peace reigns in Sokoto, and that there is really no trouble between the French and the British in that quarter of the globe, there are not a few persons who shrewdly suspect that this condition will not continue very long. In fact, there are some persons who do not give full credit to the assurance that all is quiet, and these claim that if perchance their scepticism is not well founded, the report of the invasion of Sokoto by the French was but a prophecy of an event of the near future.

France has as distinct an African ambition as has Great Britain. The ambition of the latter is to secure a clear territorial sweep north and south, from the Mediterranean to the Cape of Good Hope. For the consummation of this ambition, Great Britain is working through the Anglo-Egyptian Nile expedition at one end of the line and through Cecil Rhodes at the other. The ambition of France is to secure a continuous stretch of country west and east from the Atlantic to the Red Sea. The Central Soudan already belongs to France. From that basis she is working alone for the realization of her dream. On the east coast she is, it is suspected, assisted by Russian emissaries.

That both Powers cannot carry out their policies is obvious, and we believe that Great Britain will be the winner. She has right on her side by reason of treaties—if, indeed, such treaties as she forces from the natives confer any rights—and it is evident that the British people in what they yielded to France in Siam, Tunis, and Madagascar, made all the concessions they intend to make. This the French can hardly fail to appreciate.

But the recent drift of events in France would seem to prove very clearly that the republic needs a safety-valve. The Zola trial has set agencies and influences in motion that it is believed render it necessary that public attention should be diverted from affairs at home, and this task, it is held, could not be better accomplished than by bringing on a complication with Great Britain over the African question. Whether the two Powers actually went to war or not, such a complication would enable France to do a little dramatic work by concentrating troops in the Central Soudan, and would further strengthen the champions of the army.

Reports on the use of antitoxin in diphtheria continue to show the great, the inestimable, value of the recently discovered preventive. Quoting from the New York Tribune the figures of Dr. Kammerer, "the city physician of Vienna," in a report just made to the physicians of the Austrian capital as to the results attained with antitoxin down to the end of the year 1895 in the cities of Germany containing over 15,000 inhabitants, we find that in the ten years from 1885 to 1894 there were 119,038 fatal cases of diphtheria and croup in these cities—that is, an average of 11,904 annually, with a maximum of 15,860 in 1893 and a minimum of 9,934 in 1888. On an average in the ten years under consideration, 10.69 people died of these diseases out of every 10,000. In 1895, the first year in which antitoxin came into general use, only 7,266 people died in these cities of diphtheria and croup; in other words, 5.4 out of every 10,000 inhabitants. The mortality from diphtheria and croup for 1895, in comparison with the average of the ten preceding years, was reduced nearly one-half, and was 44 per cent. more favorable than in the best of those years. Similar results are ascertained for Vienna itself, where the use of antitoxin was begun at the same time. Since the consolidation of Vienna and its suburbs, in 1891, down to and including 1894, there have been 6,081 deaths from diptheria and croup, an average of 1,520 a year, or 10.8 for each 10,000 of the population. In the years 1895 and 1896 there was an annual average of 646.5 deaths, or 4.35 per 10,000. Consequently, the mortality, compared with the years 1891 to 1894, was diminished considerably more than one-half—59.7 per cent. This was due partly to a striking reduction in the severity of the disease, indicated by the fact that in the years 1895 and 1896 there was an average of only 3,310 cases, against a 4,375.5 average in 1891-'94. But even when this factor is eliminated, the result is an average mortality of 5.7 per 10,000 inhabitants for the last two years, or a decrease of 47.2 per cent.

The Fredericksburg Free Lance earnestly trusts that the House of Delegates will not sustain the adverse report on the penitentiary matter, but concur with the Senate and provide for the enlargement of the building. It is, declares our contemporary, a duty to the State and to humanity to do this. In conclusion, the Free Lance says that public policy calls for the enlargement of the penitentiary, and it begs the Legislature to act, and to act favorably.

For the House not to pass the bill would be to commit a great blunder, seeing that it would only stave off the inevitable, and that, too, at the expense of the good name of the State for exercising common humanity, and at the risk of the prison's becoming a disease-breeder.

"The Army and Navy Year Book" rates the navies of the world as follows: 1, Great Britain; 2, France, 3, Russia; 4, Italy; 5, United States; 6, Germany; 7, Spain; 8, Japan; 9, Austria, and 10, Netherlands; but, under present naval contracts, according to the New York Tribune, Japan in 1899 will go to the fifth place, crowding down the United States and Germany one point.

The Lynchburg Advance heartily approves the Lowry bill, authorizing the Governor to grant conditional pardons to convicts confined in the penitentiary. The plan, says the Advance, is worth trying, both in the interest of economy and humanity.

The Senate has passed the bill, and it is hoped that the House will do likewise.

Of course, Mr. Bailey, of Texas, who is now assuredly a speaker, is to be, before long, the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It is a mere matter of article-ation, and is bound to come about in the natural order of things.

"In the trial of a suit for damages, a lawyer submitted to the application of ten volts of electricity to his tongue." Then, of course, he talked like lightning.

It is announced in New York that Richard Croker will return to England April 1st—but look again at the date.

The duty of American patriots is still to keep cool, and at the same time keep the powder dry.

"Oh, yes," said the astronomer as he readjusted his telescope, "I think our profession have much to be thankful for; no matter how great may be the depression in other lines of business, ours is always 'looking up.'"

A Long Wait.

"Whate'er your answer be," he said,
As ardently he wooed the dame,
And for her sweet concession plead,
"I'll love you always, just the same."

She looked up at his face thereat,
And said in tones with fervor blent,
"When you have fully proven that
I'll cheerfully give my consent."

So Thoughtful of Her.

He had been her escort to several theatrical performances, and on each occasion had followed the masculine habit of going out between the acts.

Upon a recent occasion they were again at the play together, and as the curtain fell at the end of the second act he was just reaching under the seat for his hat, when she ingenuously remarked:

"You needn't go out, Henry; I thought to bring some cloves with me this time."

A Fair Deduction.

Conductor: From the way you speak I guess you must think this company is trying to swindle the public.

Passenger: And from the way I have been treated I think I am justified in believing that to be a fair deduction.

Conductor: Maybe you think so, but I want you to understand that we don't permit any fare deductions on this road.

How Could She?

Young Mushman: Miss Clawa, beg pardon! But wecently yoah mannah, don't yer know, quite distwesses me; perhaps you are not awaah of it, but you have acquiahed a chwonic habit of stawing at vacancy.

Miss Clara: You silly boy! How can I help it without being inattentive to you?

Anticipated Him.

Rev. Longsermon: My congregation is a very good one; not so much in the way of numbers as in general deportment. There is one thing, however, that I would like to introduce among them if I could, and that is—

Reddiman: I anticipate you, Doctor; you mean insomnia, of course.

Of Course He Couldn't.

Miss Sharp: In the event of war between the United States and Spain, would you go, Mr. Hyphen?

Mr. Hyphen: Well, weally, Miss Sharp, I hadn't given the mattah a thawt, don't you know.

Miss Sharp: Of course not; how could you?

Pa's Nautical Lore.

Tommy: Pa, you say you've been a yachtsman all your days, and you ought to know a good deal about ships. Can you tell me how a vessel makes a long reach?

Pa: Certainly, Tommy; she does it with her yard-arms, of course.

It is claimed for college yells that they are original, but they strike most of us as being aboriginal.

The wheels of the liquor business are kept in motion by soaking the fellows in alcohol.

It takes a light-house to successfully withstand the buffetings of a heavy sea.

Belittle the huckster as you will, his is frequently a high calling.

It's having to "plank down" that makes a man dislike boarding.

The Cause of Our Infirmities.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I have been thinking a great deal of late about the cause of so much deafness, weak eyes, and throat troubles, etc. At last I have arrived at the conclusion that it may be largely attributed to the headdress worn by the ladies in these days. They shut themselves up in warm rooms, and when they go out, even in inclement weather, put on heavy cloaks and pin a hat on the top of their heads. Their ears and throats are unprotected. What are called bonnets are not much larger than my hand, with a lot of feathers and flowers on them. In my young days ladies wore bonnets that were bonnets. School-girls wore sunbonnets, quilted hoods, and nun's bonnets, with a simple ribbon across them, tied under their chins. These protected their eyes from the bright sun; they were serviceable, and the girls looked neat and modest in them. Grown girls wore them to school and to church, too. Now, little children have hats trimmed up with feathers and flowers, stuck on the back of their heads. Once I heard a good old minister say, "that passing along the street one day, he saw a bonnet that was a bonnet in a window, and he felt like taking off his hat, and making a bow to it." I am in my 79th year, and have had much experience. I believe in living in the sunlight. Little girls and maids in their teens wear their dresses shamefully short.

Our Efficient Fire Department.

Richmond, Va., February 21, 1898.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I feel impelled to make public recognition of the remarkably efficient service rendered by the Fire Department on my premises on the night of the 13th instant.

When the fire was discovered, about 1 o'clock, a rear room was already in flames. A neighbor, who chanced to be awake, carried the news to the Broad-Street Engine-House. The "still-alarm" was given, and in an incredibly short time the chemical engine, under the command of Chief Shaw, arrived upon the scene. The calm and gentlemanly demeanor of the firemen brought immediate assurance to the terrified inmates. They were obliged to cut away the floor and part of the wall in the upper room and a part of the floor in the kitchen below. Though they worked with great industry and dispatch, they were employed for two and a half hours, yet they left everything in such perfect order that the cooking arrangements on the following morning were not in the least interrupted. Moreover, the whole thing was so quietly done that scarcely a soul in the immediate neighborhood suspected that anything unusual had taken place. The whole affair was such as to make a very vivid impression upon a comparative stranger in Richmond. Surely the city may be justly proud of her Fire Department, and with what sweet assurance may her citizens lay themselves down to rest in the consciousness that such efficient service is within easy call!

WILLIAM ALEXANDER BARR.

OF INTEREST TO GEOLOGISTS.

Discovery of Glacial Rocks on the Eastern Shore.

ONANCOCK, VA., February 22.—(Special.)—Several days ago the Dispatch correspondent visited the region lying between Messengo and Muddy creeks, in the northwestern part of Accomac, and was enabled by personal inspection to verify the statement recently made that that part of the Eastern Shore Peninsula is strewn with pebbles and boulders of the glacial epoch. As is generally known, there are no native rocks on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Artesian wells have been sunk at several points to the depth of more than 1,200 feet, and as yet the bed-rock has not been reached. The strata through which the pipes have been sunk are composed of shells, sand, and marsh mud, showing that all this peninsula has been built up by the waves of the sea, and by the detritus brought down by the streams from the higher regions. And yet the region lying between Messongo and Muddy creeks is strewn with rocks of different kinds, some of them weighing several tons. These rocks are generally found several feet below the surface of the ground, and their smooth subangular surfaces show that they have been planed down by the action of ice and water. These rocks are of different varieties—quartz, limestone, sandstone, and granite being found in great abundance. Last summer a farmer living on the southern side of Messongo creek was ploughing his corn, when the plow struck an obstruction beneath the surface of the ground, breaking off the point. He dug around it, and found it to be a large rock. He continued to dig until near nightfall, when seven of his neighbors joined him, and though they all prized away at the rock with levers, they were unable to move it.

BOULDERS OF GREAT SIZE.

This is only one of the many boulders of similar size to be found imbedded in the mud of that region. Specimens of these rocks have been submitted to Major Jed Hotchkiss, the well-known geologist, of Staunton, Va., who has given it as his opinion that they were brought to the Eastern Shore by the ice of the Glacial Epoch, and that the sandstone is identical with that to be found in parts of New York. It has hitherto been supposed that the terminal moraene of the glaciers of the great ice age are to be found on the Atlantic coast farther south than the lower end of Long Island, nor does the discovery of glacial rocks and pebbles on the Eastern Shore of Virginia disprove this hypothesis. The rocks here are not found in heaps and layers, as in the moorainal region, but scattered here and there in indiscriminate confusion. It is known that during the Glacial Epoch the southern part of the Susquehanna Valley was under water, and it is reasonable to suppose that the southern end of the ice cap broke up and floated off as icebergs over what is now the upper Chesapeake region, melting and dropping pebbles and boulders as they reached the warmer water of the southern seas. It is not improbable that some of these icebergs ran aground in the shallow water of the region, and as they melted dropped the detritus they contained on the sea floor, which has since been elevated above the sea-level. While the district in which these glacial deposits are mainly found lies between Messongo and Muddy creeks, yet the pebbles and boulders are found from the mouth of the Pocomoke river down to Guilford creek, a distance of about fifteen miles. In sinking wells in this region large boulders are frequently met with at from two to fifteen feet below the surface, and the bottoms of the wells are sometimes in a stratum of gravel and pebbles, while the earth above consists entirely of sand and loam. Strange to say, these glacial deposits on the Eastern Shore have up to this time escaped the notice of scientific men. Oystermen say that they frequently dredge up large quantities of rock from the bottom of Pocomoke Sound, just off the region described above. Major Hotchkiss declares the discovery of these glacial deposits to be one of the most interestings facts in recent geological investigation.

Why Mislead the People?

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I received by to-day's mail Circular No. 8, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., on "The Cotton Crop of 1896-'97." On page 13 of said circular, in the table showing the value of the cotton crop of 1895-'97, number of bales, weight per bale, and price per pound, Virginia is credited with producing 11,539 bales; average weight, 484 pounds; price per pound, 6.99 cents. By reference to my sales of eleven bales sold from September 25th to November 1st in Norfolk and Petersburg, I find I realized the following prices: One bale, 6 1-2 cents; 3 bales 6 1-4 cents; 2 bales, 6 1-8 cents; 2 bales, 6 cents; 1 bale, 5 7-8 cents; 1 bale, 5 1-2 cents; 1 bale, 5 1-4 cents, making an average of about 6 1-88 cents per pound, with the freight, drayage, commissions, etc., to come off, against 6.99, as given by the table. The report states that "the price per pound is the average price realized by the planters in each State, as reported by them to this office," I am fully satisfied my crop of cotton was as well gathered and marketed as the average crop, and I am also fully satisfied I realized as much, if not more, than some (for I saw the sales myself) of my neighbors, and I only had one bale of stained cotton in the lot. Now, who could have been so ignorant of the prices of cotton as to have thus imposed upon the department in that manner? Ought not the department find better reporters in the future, and not thus injure the planters instead of benefiting them? By making some calculations, we will see that it makes a pretty considerable difference in the total summing up. We find the difference of prices about 7-8 cent per pound, which makes a difference in the Virginia crop alone of about $49,000 less than the report gives to the public. We find from the same table, not counting the Sea Island cotton, total number of bales, 8,428,337, averaging 703 pounds, making a total of 4,239,455,511 pounds at 6.65, the average price as given by the table, making a total of $285,810,606. Now, if the same difference in prices occurred in the other sixteen States, as I believe they did in Virginia, we find the astonishing amount of about $37,000,000 less realized by the planters than the department figures out.

Is it not much easier, or equally as easy to determine the average price of cotton as it is to ascertain the number of bales? If the same errors happened in summing up the number of bales—and why not?—has not the department of Agriculture done the cotton planters an injury instead of a benefit? It really has that appearance, and while I am not charging the department with wilfully doing anything to injure the planters, had it not better be more careful in selecting reporters to give them statistical information?

If like errors occur in all the statistics sent out by the department, certainly they are very misleading and injurious to the very class of people the department was designed to benefit. Will the planters take the trouble to examine these reports? PLANTER.

Yale, Sussex County, Va.

He Explained.

(Detroit Free Press.)

"Do you want my daughter for her money or for herself?" demanded the old gentleman.

"It's this way," stammered the young man, as he tripped backward over the rug; "I want her for myself, and I want her money for herself, and I want both of them for ourselves, and you certainly must understand."

Not James T. Rankin, of Richmond.

The judgment rendered in the Circuit Court on Friday against James T. Rankin was not against Mr. James T. Rankin, of 815 west Cary street, this city.

Many prominent citizens and officials recommend Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup.

Good Roads Suggestion.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I notice in your issue of the 23d, in connection with wide tires on heavy vehicles, for the preservation and improvement of highways, a suggestion that the rear axle be made longer than the front, so that the wheels may not "track," but have more the effect of a roller.

Allow me to amend this suggestion. I would recommend the opposite of this arrangement (and accomplish the same object), and have the front axle the longer, because: First, the vehicle can be turned shorter or more nearly around without cramping the front wheel against the body; and, second, for uses in the country in driving between gate posts, trees, stumps, etc., the driver, without having to look back and lose sight of his team and the road ahead, need only see that the front wheels can clear the obstructions, knowing that the rear ones can follow. The difference in length of axles should be just twice the width of tire. With 4-inch tires we get 8 inches of roller effect. We need such legislation badly in Virginia.

A GOOD ROADS ADVOCATE.

Richmond, February 24th.

Woman, Lovely Woman.

(Detroit Evening News.)

She spoke so softly that the throng
About them never could have guessed
The meaning of the whispered words
Which she aside to him addressed.

She smiled so sweetly when she spoke,
None might imagine her intent,
Or dream that anger tipped the shaft,
So graciously, indeed, 'twas sent.

She looked so saintly none could know
How deeply was her spirit wrought;
The tenderness within her eyes
No index was to what she thought.

And none, save he, of those who there
Observed her as she calmly sat
Had inkling that her fair lips hissed:
"You chump, that tie just kills my hat!"

SPECIAL RATES FOR TEACHERS.

Teachers desiring to join, at special rates, Miss Mary Perkins Horsley's party for this summer's term at the Chautauqua of the South, in Cumberland Mountains, Monteagle, Tenn., apply to Miss HORSLEY, at Jefferson Hotel, between 4 and 6 P. M. Tuesday, March 1st, or write at once, care Dispatch office. Best references given and required. fe 27-1t

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE.

R. S. M. VALENTINE

FOR

CITY AUDITOR,

Subject to Democratic Primary.

In returning thanks for past favors I respectfully solicit the support of my friends and the public generally in the coming election. fe 27-Su3t

TO THE VOTERS OF RICHMOND:

As a candidate for Sheriff, and in reply to a few lines printed in last Sunday's Dispatch, would say: "Not through sympathy do I ask for votes, as being one of the candidates of family, but for the votes of my people as a citizen, who will, if elected to the office, give all my attention and labor to be worthy the confidence you give me."

In reply to the often-repeated inquiry why I do not attend the political meetings, will explain to all concerned that I have an invalid wife, who claims my attention at night, as no one I have procured can take my place in her afflictions. She has been helpless for the past five years. During the day my time is my own, and nothing to interfere. I have the highest respect for the meetings and officers, and trust you will favor me with your vote, and will give you in return the very best service possible.

I am yours,

fe 27-1t* REUBEN T. JENNINGS, Jr.

E. C. GARRISON
for re-election
HIGH CONSTABLE,
Subject to Primary.
Your vote and influence respectfully solicited. fe 27-1t

GEORGE C. CORNICK
for
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,
Madison Ward.
Subject to the Democratic Primary.
Your support will be greatly appreciated. fe 27-1t*

FOR HIGH CONSTABLE,
GEORGE M'D. BLAKE.

SUBJECT TO DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY.
YOUR VOTE SOLICITED.
(fe 20-eodtd)

Orders for printing sent to the Dispatch Company will be given prompt attention, and the style of work and prices will be sure to please you.

PERSONAL.

MUTUAL RESERVE FUND LIFE ASSOCIATION.—I am a policy-holder of $30,000. I have answered nine advertisements; in three instances lawyers wanted fees to try and destroy my insurance; in the other six they were either agents of other companies or go-betweens, who offered me insurance at more than I was paying. I could not be benefited by a single one of these propositions, and, as stopping payments and dropping my insurance would be just as beneficial as any of the propositions made, I have decided, if sufficient policy-holders will join me in the expense to accept the offer made by the association for us to appoint an accountant who will investigate as to the necessity of the proposed increase, and if we are satisfied of its necessity, I then propose that we should band ourselves together to protect our own property, and if it is ascertained that it is not necessary to call upon us for the increased assessment, to ask these directors to refrain from present and future increases. I want those who are willing to protect our provision and not injure it to answer this by letter. Policy-holders only to reply, and address M. L. WEBSTER, 197 west Eighty-eighth street, New York city. fe 27-1t

MEETINGS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE HOOVES MERCANTILE COMPANY will be held at the law office of P. H. C. Cabell, corner Eleventh and Main streets, over the National Bank of Virginia, Richmond, Va., on WEDNESDAY, March 9, 1898, at 10 o'clock A. M. W. T. HOOVES,
fe 27-10t Secretary and Treasurer.

AMUSEMENTS.

ON FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH, AT 4:30 P. M., Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Robson will give an entertainment at the Executive mansion, under the auspices of the Old Dominion Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The tickets, to be sold for the benefit of the George Washington Memorial Association, may be had of the treasurer, Mrs. Junius A. Morris, corner of Third and Grace streets, or of George M. West & Co. fe 27-1t*

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

MONDAY AND TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28TH AND MARCH 1ST,
MATINEE TUESDAY,
DIGBY BELL,
Supported by Laura Joyce Bell and Other Artists, in
"THE HOOSIER DOCTOR,"
BY AUGUSTUS THOMAS.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,
MARCH 2D AND 3D,
MATINEE THURSDAY,
Return Engagement of
THE ORIGINAL COMPANY IN
"MY FRIEND FROM INDIA."
The Great Comedy Success.
NO ADVANCE IN PRICE OF SEATS

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,
MARCH 4TH AND 5TH,
MATINEE SATURDAY,
THE EMINENT COMEDIAN,
MR. STUART ROBSON.
Seats on sale Monday, February 28th.
(fe 27-10)

ASSOCIATION STAR COURSE.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION HALL,
MONDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 28TH,
MISS MARY FRENCH FIELD,
Daughter of Eugene Field,
READINGS FROM HER
FATHER'S POEMS.
Reserved seats commencing Friday, February 25th, at 1 P. M. fe 25-Fa,Su1t